

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7024
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USDOCOSOUTH

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VIENNA FOR LEDSKY

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MOVES TOWARD EARLY ELECTIONS

REF:ANKARA 2481 (DTG 041425Z APR 77)

1. TURKEY'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) EVENING APRIL 4 TOOK
DECISIVE STEP TOWARD BYPASSING OPPONENTS OF EARLY PARLIMENTARY
ELECTIONS. APRIL 4 SESSION MET UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF A
REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) DEPUTY (CHAIRMANSHIP
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ROTATES AMONG PARTY GROUPS) WHO REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE
NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP)
DEPUTIES WHO WANTED TO CONTINUE THEIR OBSTRUCTIONIST
TACTICS BY SPEAKING ON "OUT OF AGENDA ITEMS". THE ONLY
ITEM CONSIDERED AT THE SESSION WAS A JOINT JUSTICE PARTY (JP)
AND RPP PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE BY-LAWS OF THE NA SO THAT
AN EARLY ELECTION PROPOSAL NEED NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WHERE THE NSP HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN BLOCKING ACTION PREVIOUSLY. THE JOINT PROPOSAL WAS QUICKLY PASSED AND LATER IN THE EVENING A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE WAS CONVENED TO CONSIDER AN EARLY ELECTION PROPOSAL. THIS PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE AND WILL BE INTRODUCED TO THE NA APRIL 5. APPROVAL OF THE EARLY ELECTION PROPOSAL APRIL 5 PROBABLY WOULD MEAN THAT ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 5. IF APPROVAL OCCURS LATER THIS WEEK, THE DATE WILL BE JUNE 12.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FINAL DECISION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN AND THE NSP CAN BE EXPECTED TO ATTEMPT TO THWART THE DECISION IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE, IT NOW ONCE MORE APPEARS PROBABLE THAT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN JUNE RATHER THAN THE SCHEDULED TIME OF OCTOBER. NSP LAST DITCH EFFORTS REPORTEDLY INCLUDE AN OFFER TO FORM A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH THE RPP, EARLY CONSIDERATION OF A DP-SPONSORED CENSURE MOTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, REFUSAL BY ERBAKAN TO SIGN DECREE ANNOUNCING NEW ELECTION DATE AND POSSIBLY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CURRENT COALITION. (THE NSP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETS TODAY, APRIL 5, REPORTEDLY TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO CONTINUE IN THE GOVERNMENT.) JUDGING FROM THE COOPERATION DISPLAYED BY THE RPP AND JP IN YESTERDAY'S ACTION, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ANY NSP MANEUVERS WILL BLOCK THE MOVE TOWARD EARLY ELECTIONS.
MACOMBER

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